

## SENATE RESOLUTION 262

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Harmon L. Wray,  
Christian leader and servant.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Harmon L. Wray of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Harmon Wray was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity for more than thirty years as a Lecturer in Church and Ministries and a Field Education Supervisor at Vanderbilt Divinity School (VDS), in which positions he earned the respect of his peers and students alike for the exemplary quality of his work; he also rendered sterling service as an adjunct faculty member at VDS for more than twenty years and as the Executive Director of the National Association of Sentencing Advocates since 2003; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his illustrious tenure at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Mr. Wray also lent his talents and passions in his role as the Executive Director of Restorative Justice Ministries for the United Methodist Church (UMC) and, prior to that, as Coordinator for Ministries with the Poor and Marginalized; and

WHEREAS, the highly respected author of *Restorative Justice: Moving Beyond Punishment*, Harmon Wray evinced the greatest integrity and probity in his efforts to teach theology and criminal justice issues; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis and Duke University Divinity School, Mr. Wray received his Master of Arts degree in Religion from Vanderbilt University in 1985; and

WHEREAS, he contributed his professional talents to numerous organizations, including the Huntland Presbyterian Church as its pastor from 1972 until 1975, as an Information

Assistant with InfoServ from 1976 until 1979, as the Community Organizer and State Director of Southern Prison Ministry, as the Community Education Coordinator for Project Return, and as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, a public servant of the highest order, Mr. Wray lent his time and talents to those noble causes closest to his heart, including the Church, Community, and Corrections Committee; the Restorative Justice Coalition of Tennessee; ACLU-TN; Board of Church and Society with the Tennessee Conference of UMC; the Capital Case Resource Center of Tennessee; the Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries; the Tennessee State Prison's Lifers Club; the Methodist Federation for Social Action; the *Southern Communities* Editorial Board; the Southern Prison Ministry; Tennesseans for Handgun Control; the Tennessee Conference (UMC) Corrections Committee; the Tennessee Jail Standards Revision Committee; the Tennessee Hunger Coalition; and the Vanderbilt Prison Project; and

WHEREAS, Harmon Wray was an active and devout member of Edgehill United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully since 1971; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wray was an extremely giving person who often reached out with compassion to people who life had treated unkindly, and he epitomized the ideal of the consummate professional and dedicated public servant; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the companionship of his life partner, Judy Parks; and

WHEREAS, Harmon L. Wray leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Harmon L. Wray, a remarkable Christian leader and servant, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Wray.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.